



**Governor's Advisory Council
To The Division of Developmental Disabilities**

June 21, 2018

1056 Governor's Avenue
Dover, DE

Council Members:

Terri Hancharick, Chair
Tim Brooks
Tom Rust
Sue Pereira
Stan Trier
Angela Sipple

Staff Members:

Marissa Catalon, Deputy Director
Carey Hocker
Katie Howe
Terry Macy
Lynda Lord
Jim Dickinson
Rick Kosmalski
Stacy Watkins
Nicole Lawless, Minutes

Guests Present:

Terry Olson, The Arc of Delaware
Pat Maichle, DDC

Meeting Minutes

Aging in Place Taskforce

Carey Hocker led a presentation on the Aging in Place Taskforce previously established under former DDDS Director Jane Gallivan. The purpose of the taskforce was to identify barriers that prevent individuals served by DDDS from aging in place based on the definition of aging in place by the Center for Disease Control.

CDC definition of Aging in Place: The ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level.

The group identified the following barriers.

- Retirement
- Hospice Care
- Accessibility
- Knowledge of Healthy Aging
- Nutritional Services
- End of Life Planning

The taskforce encouraged community involvement for individuals (day trips, classes, etc.), increases in technology that promote independence, and discussed potential partnerships with DSAAPD, the Alzheimer's Association, and other agencies to provide services such as home modifications through grants, public and education services, and meals on wheels. GAC members mentioned that 100% of

individuals with Down Syndrome develop early onset Alzheimer. The DD council is currently working on a public awareness campaign for this topic.

After the presentation, there was a motion, a second, and a vote by the GAC to ask DDDS to re-instate the Aging in Place Taskforce, reassess issues, and develop a plan to address those issues. The Arc of Delaware expressed an interest in participating in the taskforce as well. DDDS is pleased with the idea of including providers in the new taskforce to allow both groups to learn from each other. DDDS also suggested a partnership with a member of the Christiana Care Transitional Care Unit.

Past taskforce membership was comprised of a DDDS Nurse, Behavioral Analyst, Case Manager, Residential Unit Manager (Carey), and a Training representative.

Community of Practice Meeting Update

Stacy led a presentation on the June Community of Practice meeting. The two-day event included training from NASDDDS and had a variety of attendees compared to past years, including families and 27 staff members representing different agencies. During the event, participants received hands on training using the Star and Trajectory. Tools used during training provided family planning on one side and planning for the individual on the other. During the lunch break, a previously homeless family shared their personal story and experience with Community Navigators who went above and beyond to assist them. The family's story had a large impact on the group and attendees discussed the importance of learning how to pull together funding from multiple agencies to provide supports for families. Additional events will take place in the future.

DDDS Housing Options Discussion

DDDS and GAC members engaged in a discussion concerning DDDS housing options. Individuals living in different settings can have varying costs as the amount is determined by the supports each individual needs. As a result, there is no set cost for a specific location or service.

In the past, a crisis indicator would screen what services an individual would and would not receive. DDDS no longer uses this method, as individuals are not in crisis. The Division currently completes a HCBS review that looks at services the individual is currently receiving, what is working well for the individual, and what is not working. If necessary, DDDS also completes a risk assessment.

The housing process has also undergone changes. In the past individuals were placed with a provider who had a current vacancy. Now, greater efforts are made through facilitated dinners and additional meetings to help individuals choose whom they are living with and what provider is a correct fit for them. DDDS also takes into consideration how close parents and/or guardians prefer to live to the residence of choice.

The GAC expressed the importance of explaining cost formulas to families so they understand how much support they are receiving. DDDS also suggested looking at financial data on housing to identify any trends.

FY19 Retreat & Meeting Schedule

The next GAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. with a tentative September 20, 2018 meeting date after the August break.

GAC members also set October 19, 2018 as a pending date for the CY18 GAC Retreat. A final date for the retreat will be set at the July 19th meeting.

Topic suggestions for the retreat include the following:

- DDDS Initiatives (for next few years)
- GAC Priorities (for next few years)
- Evaluation of Providers
 - Synopsis of the DDDS evaluation process
- Future of the Stockley Center and property
- Website Changes
 - Information about aging should be included in future website
- List of current DDDS projects
 - What is in progress/being finished
 - What is on the shelf
- DDDS transition from a service provider to an oversight organization
 - What activities does this include?
 - Will staffing remain the same?
 - Are there associated costs with the transition?
- FY19 Meeting Schedule and Time

Other Business/Announcements

No additional topics discussed.

Future Meetings

July 19, 2018	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
September 20, 2018	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Remaining FY19 meeting dates TBD.